



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**

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Beltway Beef is a weekly report from Washington, D.C., giving an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry; direct from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Please feel free to reprint in full or in part. If you would like to include NCBA's logo, contact us at 303-694-0305.



Beltway Beef

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Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

NCBA Condemns Extremist Attacks on Family-Owned Cattle Operation

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) President Bill Donald said the alleged animal rights extremist attacks on Harris Ranch, located in Coalinga, Calif., is an example of extremists showing a disregard for property and lives. While law enforcement has not confirmed who was responsible for the attacks, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, [publicly released information](#) on Jan. 9, 2012, that included correspondence from the group reportedly claiming responsibility.

"This is not only an attack on a family-owned and operated business; this is a domestic terrorist attack on our nation's providers of food and fiber," said Donald. "This extremist behavior goes above mere activism and the freedom of speech. These criminals are threatening lives and causing substantial economic harm."

The attack took place before dawn on Sun., Jan 9, 2012. Fourteen tractor trailers were engulfed in flames and

several other pieces of farm equipment were also damaged. No people or animals were reported hurt during the attack. Donald said those responsible for this attack are not at all concerned about the safety of livestock.

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~ Bill Donald, NCBA president

"Anyone concerned about the welfare of animals would not orchestrate attacks on individuals who are experts at caring for these creatures," said Donald. "Ranchers are undoubtedly the very best caretakers of livestock. Cattlemen and women implement the highest animal handling and food safety standards designed by veterinarians, animal behavioral experts and researchers."

Reports indicate that law enforcement will likely hold a press conference next week. Donald said he is encouraged by the swift action of California and

federal investigators and looks forward to seeing those guilty of this "heinous" crime prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"These extreme attacks are nothing more than bad people doing bad things and they must be prosecuted to

the fullest extent of the law, just as any other criminal would be in this country," said Donald.

He said NCBA strongly condemns any and all attacks against farming and ranching operations.

"As a rancher, a father and a proud grandfather, I feel for the families impacted by this senseless attack. As president of the leading national cattle organization, I applaud my fellow cattlemen for their efforts to provide the safest and highest quality beef to consumers in the United States and beyond," he said.

~ Don't Miss Out: Enter to Win a John Deere Gator ~

It's not too late to enter the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Political Action Committee (PAC) Sweepstakes for a chance to win a John Deere Gator! The drawing will be held during the 2012 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1-4, but you do not need to be present at the convention to win. **Tickets are \$100 and are still available.** If you'd like to buy a ticket to enter the sweepstakes, email Anna Lee, NCBA PAC director, at alee@beef.org.

NCBA: Pre-Convention Tour to Highlight Nashville History, Unique Culture — 2012 Cattle Industry Convention Underway Feb. 1-4

2012 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show participants can count themselves in for a jam-packed week. In addition to participating in policy committee meetings, educational events and networking with thousands of cattlemen and women, convention participants will also have the opportunity to learn about the local culture and history during a pre-convention agricultural tour on Tues., Jan. 31, 2012.

NCBA President Bill Donald said the tour will give convention goers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to get a firsthand glimpse of Nashville.

"Besides having the opportunity to experience some of Nashville's best entertainment, convention participants will also have the opportunity to explore the unique history of the city and its surroundings," Donald said. "We want to be able to provide cattlemen and women with the educational tools they need to be successful at their operations as well as give them an

opportunity to learn about a new part of the country."

The tour, sponsored by SFP and hosted by Tennessee Beef Council, Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, includes stops at the Tennessee Farmer's Cooperative; the Stones River Battlefield National Park; the Dye & Ray cattle operation; as well as a guided tour of the Jack Daniels Distillery. In addition to touring all these sites, those who register for the tour will also have the opportunity to be a part of a live taping of RFD-TV Monday Night Live. The live taping on Mon., Jan. 30, will include a catered dinner and give participants time to explore the RFD-TV studio.

In order to take part in this opportunity, participants must preregister. Spots will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited. For more information on how to preregister and for a schedule of the 2012 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show, visit www.beefusa.org.



Legislative Watch

S. 1528 - Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act

To establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter (dust), to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law.

The House version, H.R. 1633, passed on Thurs., Dec. 8, 2011. NCBA urges a **YES** vote S. 1528.

Key Sponsor: Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.)

S. 1061 / H.R. 1996 – Government Litigation Savings Act

Will amend the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) to prohibit organizations with a net worth exceeding \$7 million from filing for EAJA funds; require EAJA filers to show a "direct and personal monetary interest" in the action to be eligible for payments; and cap the attorney fees. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1061 / H.R. 1996.

Key Sponsors: Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.)

H.R. 3097 – The Renewable Fuel Standard Flexibility Act

To partially waive the renewable fuel standard when corn inventories are low.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on the Renewable Fuels Flexibility Act.

Key Sponsors: Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.)

H.R. 2414 – Farmers' Freedom Act of 2011

Exempts certain farm vehicles from certain federal requirements (for a commercial driver's license, drug testing, medical certificates and hours of service). Prohibits federal transportation funding to a state from being terminated, limited, or otherwise interfered with as a result of the state's exempting a covered farm vehicle from any state requirements governing the operation of that vehicle.

Key Sponsor: Rep. James Lankford (R-Okla.). NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 2414.

For a full list of legislation NCBA is monitoring [click here](#).

New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. Check out updates on the estate tax and an alleged arson at a California cattle operation. You can sign up on the blog to receive an email when new information is posted. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), be a fan of us on [Facebook](#), check

out our latest photos on [Flickr](#) or watch video updates on our [YouTube](#) page. For audio, visit and subscribe to the Beltway Beef [Podcast](#). You can also subscribe to our [podcast](#) on iTunes.

Double Deck Trailer Ban in Highway Safety Bill

By Cindy Schonholtz, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association



Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation recently included the double deck trailer ban in S. 1950, the Commercial Motor Vehicle Enhancement Act of 2011. Section 905 of S. 1950 prohibits the transportation of all horses in double deck trailers, not just those bound for slaughter. This measure is currently waiting for further consideration on the Senate floor. The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will likely mark up its version of the Highway Bill in early February.

You may be curious as to why Congress is trying to expand this provision. This issue has been a strong interest of Senator Kirk (R-Ill.). While Senator Kirk was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, he stated he introduced this legislation after an accident in Wadsworth, Illinois in October, 2007 involving the overturning of a double deck trailer carrying 59 Belgian draft horses. According to accident reports the driver ran a red light causing the accident. Several other accidents cited in background information supporting the ban were caused by driver error. Unfortunate accidents such as this remind those transporting livestock that continued education on transportation safety is vital. The welfare of the livestock we are transporting is our top priority and we must communicate this fact and not allow special interest groups to destroy our industries.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture currently regulates the transport of horses to slaughter and recently strengthened those regulations, but there are currently no other federal regulations on horse transportation. Passage of this provision would possibly lead to further restrictions on livestock transportation.

Rodeo stock contractors stand to suffer adverse effects if a ban on transporting on in double deck trailers is imposed. The rodeo industry actively opposes the ban with the following facts:

- While transporting horses and all livestock, the main goal should always be the safety of the trailer (i.e. headroom, road

worthiness, etc.). As with any form of transportation, accidents may happen and the focus of any potential legislation should be on safe transport, rather than the banning one specialized form of transportation.

- Stock contractors transport rodeo horses in double deck trailers which are specially ordered or specially modified in order to safely transport horses. These modifications may include changes made to ramps and doorways to safely accommodate horses.
- Rodeo horses must be fit and able to perform when they arrive at their destination. Thousands of horses are successfully hauled each year in specially modified double deck trucks.
- Many stock contractors have one level created with a higher clearance (up to 84 inches). The level with the lower floor to ceiling clearance is used to haul timed event cattle or bulls.
- The average height of a horse is approximately 60 inches. Floor to ceiling clearance in most double level trailers used to haul bucking horses range from 71 to 75 inches. This leaves from 11 to 15 inches of headroom for the average horse in these modified trailers, more than adequate.
- Taller rodeo horses are transported in the single level areas at the front and back of the modified trailers which may have up to 9 feet of floor to ceiling clearance.
- The majority of bucking horses used in professional rodeos today come from breeding programs where they are specifically bred to buck. These horses are conditioned to riding in specially modified double level trailers from a young age.

We must stand together and educate our representatives in Congress on the negative consequences of this legislation. Please start today by contacting your elected officials in Congress and urging them to oppose provisions in the Highway Bill that prohibit the transport of horses in double deck trailers.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Jan. 11, the markets were relatively calm on the day. Live cattle futures closed mixed with the front contracts gaining on the back contracts. Feeder cattle futures closed about a quarter lower. The CME Feeder Index reported yesterday stands at \$148.91, up \$0.42 (all-time high). Boxed beef was over \$1 lower- the packer remains in the red. Lean hog futures fell over \$1/cwt. and values are testing lows from this summer and last month. Grain futures traded mixed to lower. Soybean futures fell about \$0.26/bu.

For recent market news and analysis, visit www.CattleFax.com.

Don't Miss Out on NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen!

Don't miss a special edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen*, January 17-21, as we learn more about the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. We'll examine NCBA's goals and talk with the leaders who help guide the beef industry.

NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* debuts each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. The show also airs Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Saturday at 9 a.m. (all times are Eastern). Don't forget that you can also [watch NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen online](#) anytime by visiting our website. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).



Your NCBA

Tune into Nashville for the Largest Trade Show in the Cattle Business: It's not too late to register. Trade show only registration is available onsite. Join your fellow cattlemen in Nashville, February 1-3 for the 2012 NCBA trade show. This event is for you. For more information visit www.beefusa.org or call 303-694-0305.



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.